



Transit Ridership Incentive Program

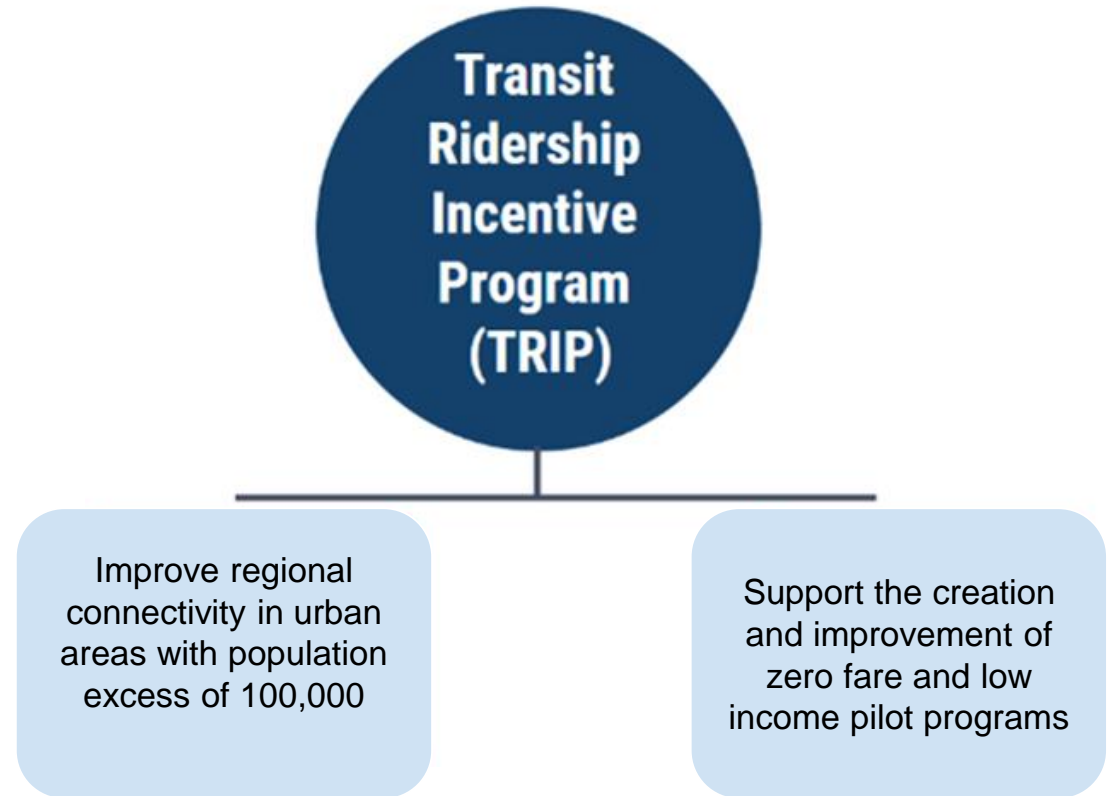
Informational Webinar- July 29, 2021

Lauren Fishbein
Statewide Program Manager
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation



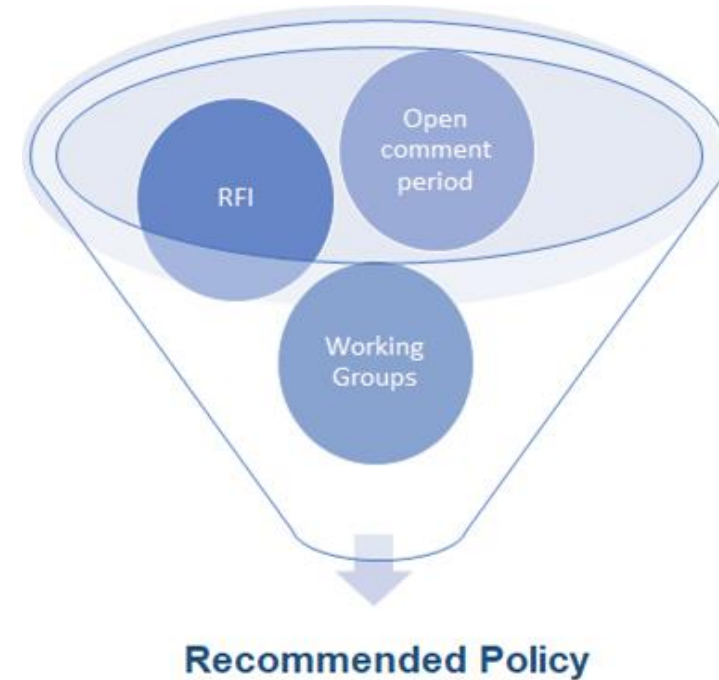
Program Overview

- Established in 2020 General Assembly Session, as part of the [HB 1414 and SB 890](#)
- Dual goal program, separated into two program types: Regional Connectivity projects and zero fare and low income projects
- Implementation delayed due to COVID-19, DRPT utilized this time to perform outreach



Outreach

- Conducted outreach informed policy decisions and framed final policy materials
- RFI- 23 ideas received from 12 transit providers
- 2 working groups of transit industry professionals
- 2 public comment periods- open to the public



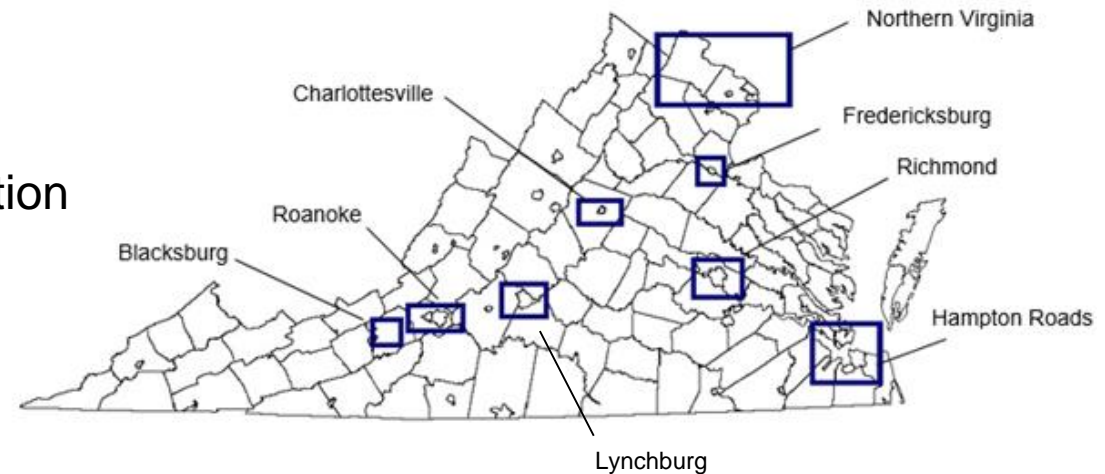
Regional Connectivity

Eligible Project Types:

- The improvement and expansion of routes with regional significance
- The creation of bus-only lanes on routes of regional significance
- The implementation of integrated fare collection
- The development and implementation of regional subsidy financing models

Project Scoring Criteria:

- Congestion Mitigation and Ridership
 - Projected impact on ridership
 - Projected peak period ridership
- Regional Connectivity and Collaboration
- Cost per passenger



Zero Fare and Low Income

Eligible Project Types:

- The provision of subsidized or fully free passes to low income populations
- The elimination of fares on high capacity corridors
- The deployment of an entirely zero fare system

Project Scoring Criteria:

- Impact on Ridership
- Applicant Commitment
- Implications for Equity and Accessibility
- Project Schedule and Readiness



Funding Availability

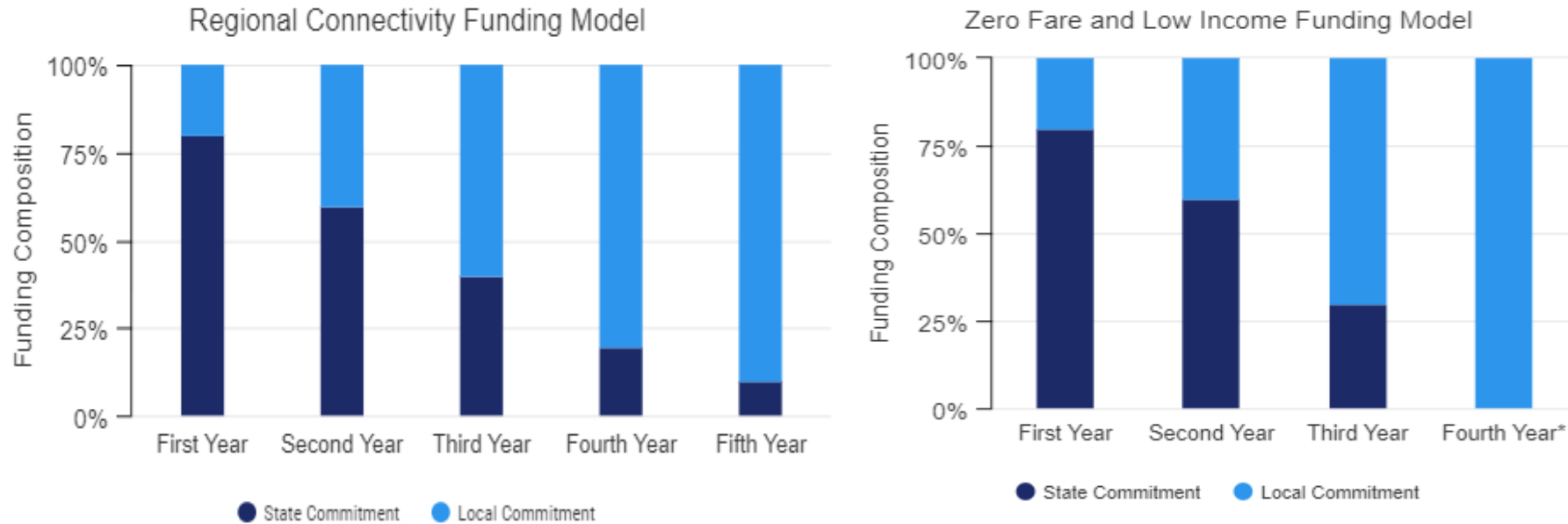
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Total
Regional Routes	\$7.5	\$11.3	\$16.9	\$16.5	\$18.0	\$18.2	\$88.4
Zero Fare/ Low Income	\$12.5	\$3.7	\$5.6	\$5.8	\$6.0	\$6.0	\$39.6
Total	\$20.0	\$15.0	\$22.5	\$23.3	\$24.0	\$24.2	\$129M

- FY 22- Include \$10 M in 2021 Transportation Initiative Funding dedicated for Zero-Fare pilots
- Beyond FY 22, up to 25% annually can be utilized for zero fare and low income projects on a statewide basis

For regional connectivity projects- -

- Each region must receive their proportional share on a 5-year rolling average
- Proportional shares will be revisited with data from the 2020 Census

Example Funding Duration



- Maximum state funding participation is 80% of eligible costs in any given year, with anticipation that the state share will reduce as local commitment increases.
- Funding shares will be established in multi-year project agreements.
- Projects may be eligible for continuation upon expiration of the initial pilot. Decisions to extend funding will be based on availability of funding and project performance.

Application Process

1. Visit DRPT's Online Grant Administration site (OLGA) and log in using your agency's credentials
2. On the Main Menu navigation page, scroll to Grant Applications >Mid Cycle Grant Applications
3. Once you've accessed the Mid-Cycle Grant Application page, scroll to Mid-Cycle Grant- *Create New*
4. Enter "Transit Ridership Incentive Program- [insert applying agency]" as the Project Name
5. Refer to the [TRIP application guidelines](#) to complete OLGA application
6. Required attachments: fillable PDF application, ridership reports, relevant planning/local documents, letters of support (if applicable)

DRPT Test Account 3
Grantee Information
Inventory Management
Grant Applications
Previously Submitted Applications
Rail Applications
Public Transportation/CAP Applications
Mid-Cycle Grant Applications
Rural Transportation Assistance (RTAP) Applications
Small Urban Training Applications
Five Year Capital Budget
Grant Management
Performance Data

Application Timeline and Questions



For more information on TRIP, please visit the [TRIP webpage](#). For questions, please contact the TRIP program manager at the contact information listed below:

Lauren Fishbein
Statewide Program Manager
Lauren.Fishbein@DRPT.virginia.gov
TRIP@DRPT.virginia.gov



Virginia Transit Equity & Modernization Study

July 29, 2021

Grant Sparks

Director of Transit Planning, DRPT

Outline

- Study Overview
- Study Development Process
- Topic Areas
- We Need Your Help!
- Questions

Study Overview

How did we get here?

HJ 542 (2021)

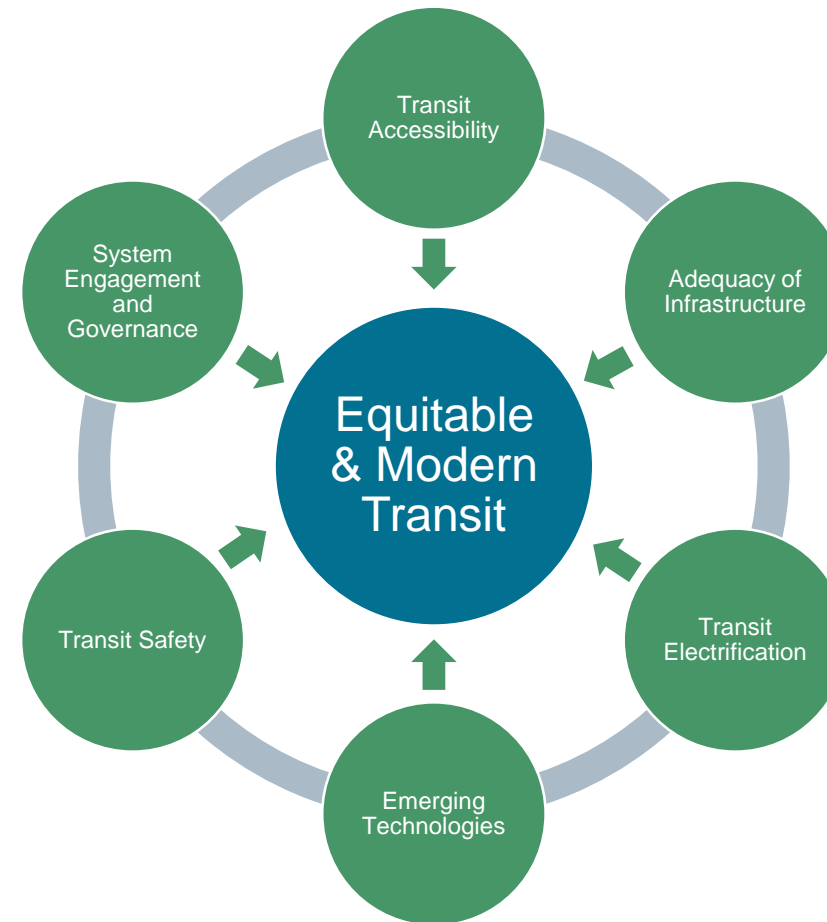
- DRPT to complete a needs assessment focusing on the equitable delivery of transit services and modernization of transit in the Commonwealth
- Emphasis on transit services and engagement opportunities for underserved and underrepresented communities



Study Overview

How did we get here?

- In addition to “equity” and “modernization” the resolution requires DRPT to explore a wide variety of topics
- Key deliverables
 - December 2021: Interim Report
 - August 2022: Final Report



Study Overview

What will this study accomplish?

- ✓ Will identify transit agency, rider, and stakeholder needs
- ✓ Will develop an action plan to address those needs

What will this study not accomplish?

- ✗ Will not be an asset inventory
- ✗ Will not single-out transit agencies for poor performance, conditions, etc.

Study Development Process

- Project Administrator: DRPT
- Prime Consultant: Kimley Horn & Associates
- Sub-consultants:

Powerful Pathways

Sharpe & Company

WBA Research

Virginia Navigator

Connetics Transportation Group

IBI Group

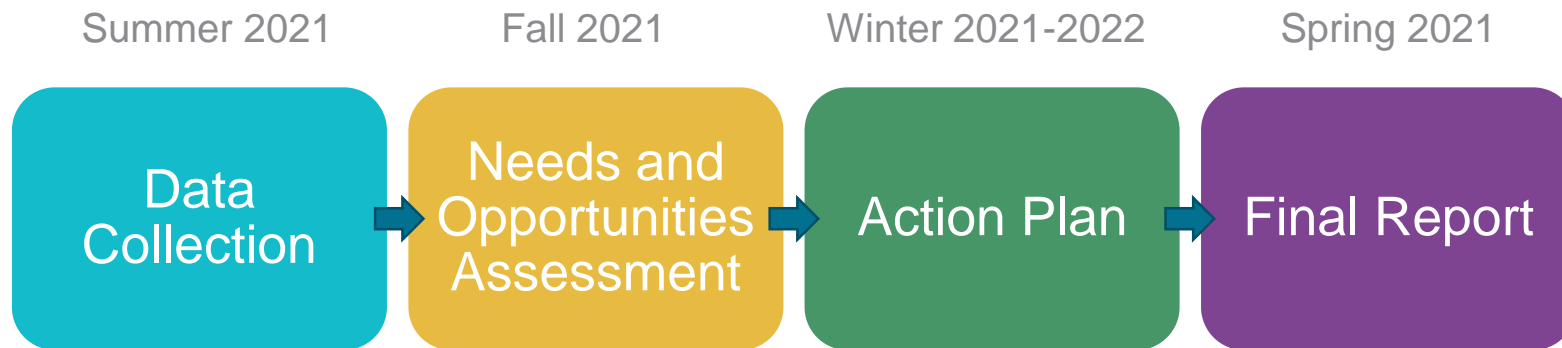
Center for Transportation and the Environment

Interactive Elements Inc.

Virginia Transit Association

Trillium

Study Development Process



Study Development Process

- TDPs & TSPs
- Public Participation Plans
- Title VI Plans
- GIS/GTFS data
- Bus stop amenities data
- Capital Improvement Programs/Plans
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP)
- TransAM data and other fleet data
- Transit Asset Management (TAM) plans

- NTD data
- Census data
- ADA accessibility data
- Emergency preparedness procedures
- Employee safety training manuals
- COVID-19 strategies and cleaning protocols
- DRPT Multimodal System Design Guidelines

Data
Collection

Study Development Process

Transit agency and public engagement activities will inform the development of a needs and opportunities assessment

Needs and
Opportunities
Assessment

Transit Agency Engagement Activities	Public Engagement Activities
Transit Agency Survey	Study Website
Transit Equity Committee (TEC)	Stakeholder Meetings
Four (4) Technical Working Groups (TWGs)	Virtual Transit Equity & Modernization Forum
Equity Awareness Discussions	Transit Rider Focus Groups
Transit Agency Outreach Kit	Comment Database
Transit Agency Interviews	Board Briefings

Study Development Process

- Findings from the Needs and Opportunities Assessment will inform the development of a Study Action Plan
- The Study Action Plan will include recommendations and implementation strategies that address barriers by topic area
- The plan will describe specific actions, next steps, coordination required, timeline for implementation and responsible agencies.

Action Plan

- **IMPORTANT:** We anticipate that the Study Action Plan will advise changes to DRPT funding programs and policies, and the development of future plans.

Study Development Process

- Due to General Assembly in August 2022
- Summary of the study process and findings, including an executive summary

Final Report

Questions that we want answered:

What will it take to make the Commonwealth's transit networks equitable and modern?

What can DRPT and other partners do to achieve this goal?

Topic Areas

Four (4) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) will focus on the following topics:

**Accessibility
& Adequacy of
Infrastructure**

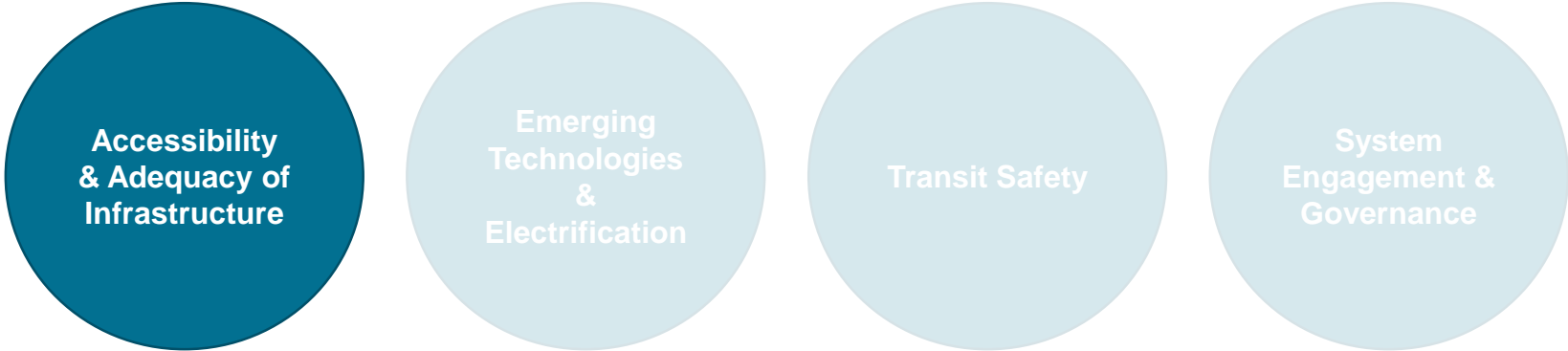
**Emerging
Technologies
&
Electrification**

Transit Safety

**System
Engagement &
Governance**

Topic Areas

Four (4) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) will focus on the following topics:



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Emerging
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Transit Safety

System
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We Need Your Help!

Two urgent requests due **Friday, August 13th**:

- 1) Transit Agency Survey: 42 questions covering the various study topics
- 2) Data Needs: Agency-specific list of data/plans

Additional request:

- Identify potential Focus Group participants

Questions?

Grant Sparks
grant.sparks@drpt.Virginia.gov

